

Message Text

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INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PEKING 889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PINR CH

SUBJECT: ROLE OF TANG WEN-SHENG

REF: BRUSSELS 4030

1. REFTTEL POINTS UP A ROLE FOR TANG WEN-SHENG (NANCY TANG) WHICH WE HAVE LONG SUSPECTED, BUT WHICH VISITS BY TINDEMANS AND KIM IL SUNG SEEM TO HAVE CONFIRMED, I.E. HER ROLE IS MORE THAT THAT OF AN INTERPRETER AND INVOLVES FU5348,& -,\$:-48*68,& -9'S STATEMENTS FOR FOREIGN LISTENERS. ADDRESSEES NO DOUBT HAVE NOTED THAT NANCY TANG SAT IN ON MAO'S MEETINGS WITH TINDEMANS AND KIM IL SUNG DESPITE THE FACT THAT SHE SPEAKS NEITHER FRENCH NOR KOREAN TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. PROCEDURE IN BOTH CASES APPEARED TO HAVE BEEN THAT WANG HAI-JUNG FIRST RENDERS MAO'S STATEMENT FROM WISPERED HUNAN DIALECT INTO INTELLIGIBLE CHINESE, NANCY TANG THEN REPHRASED IT OR ADJUSTED IT FOR THE INTERPRETER WHO THEN REPEATED IT IN VISITOR'S LANGUAGE. WITH ENGLISH SPEAKING VISITORS, NANCY TANG CAN OF COURSE ELIMINATE THE INTERMEDIARY STEP AND PUT MAO'S THOUGHTS--AS AMENDED--INTO ENGLISH.

2. USLO OFFICER WHO ACCOMPANIED ALBERT-RHODES GROUP ON VISIT WITH CHU TEH NOTED THAT THE SAME THING SEEMED TO BE OWOURRING IN HIS CASE. AFTER CHU WOULD MAMBLE INCOMPREHENSIBLE REPLY TO ALBERT'S QUERY, NANCY TANG WOULD REPLY APPARENTLY WITHOUT MUCH REFERENCE TO WHAT CHU HAD SAID. IN ANOTHER CASE, NEW ZEALAND AMBASSADOR

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HARLAND RECENTLY ENTERTAINED VICE MINISTER WANG HAI-JUNG

WHO CONSISTANTLY DEFERRED TO NANCY TANG AND OCCASIONALLY
APPEARED TO ASK HER WHAT TO SAY. NANCY WOULD OFFER GUIDANCE
AND THEN INTERPRET WANG'S REMARKS.

3. COMMENHEC WE SUSPECT THAT NANCY TANG'S ROLE IS A TECHNICAL
ONE AND THAT SHE IS NOT MAKING POLICY OFF THE TOP OF HER
HEAD. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS A ROLE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE AND
INDICATIVE OF THE CONFIDENCE THE CHINESE LEADERSHIP,
QUITE POSSIBLE PREMIER CHOU, HAS IN HER.
BUSH

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